

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 18, 22-35 and 37-40 are currently pending in this application as amended. By the present amendment, claim 35 has been amended. Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced into the application by these amendments.

RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In the Action, restriction was required between Group I, with claims 1, 18, 20, 22-34 and 40, drawn to a leaf-stripping device comprising a rotatable cylinder with peripheral grooves, wherein a blower is configured for producing an airstream through the grooves, and Group II, with claims 35 and 37-39, drawn to a leaf-stripping device comprising a cover plate that has a cutout with an incline along an edge from the cutout configured for minimizing air flow toward the second rotatable cylinder. As noted above, Applicants have elected Group I without traverse for prosecution on the merits. Additionally, claim 35 has been amended so that it now depends from claim 1 and should therefore also be considered in connection with the Group I claims. As claims 37-39 also now depend indirectly from claim 1, they should also be maintained in this application.

CONCLUSION

If any additional information is required, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience.

Prompt examination of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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